

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6200

April 21, 2010

## **Via Electronic Transmission**

Robert L. Robinson  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Division of Medicaid  
State of Mississippi  
550 High Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Executive Director Robinson:

In the United States, the federal and state governments spend roughly \$317 billion every year on the Medicaid program. As Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, I have an obligation to ensure that taxpayer dollars are appropriately spent on federal health care programs. Like the Medicare program, Medicaid suffers from systemic weaknesses that lead to fraud, waste, and abuse across the program, resulting in higher costs and less health care to those who are in need. The overutilization of prescription drugs, whether through drug abuse or outright fraud, plays a significant role in the rising cost of our healthcare system. The purpose of this letter is to request information regarding certain outliers in Mississippi's Medicaid program and what steps Mississippi takes to monitor rates of utilization.

In recent inquiries, I have asked the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services about physicians prescribing mental health drugs at astonishingly high rates. In addition to these concerns, a recent CNN report detailed the increasing abuse of OxyContin, Roxicodone, and Xanax. Specifically, the report described the role some pain management clinics and physicians play in the black market for these drugs. I write today to better ascertain how high rates of both mental health and pain medication utilization are affecting the Medicaid program, as well as how Mississippi's rates compare to the national rates.

To that end, please provide charts that list of the top ten Medicaid prescribers of the following drugs for the years 2008 and 2009. For each prescriber, please provide his/her prescriber identifier, and the number of prescriptions written per drug per year, and the total amount billed to Medicaid per drug, separated for each year.

- Abilify;
- Geodon;
- Seroquel;
- Zyprexa;

- Risperdal;
- OxyContin;
- Roxicodone; and
- Xanax.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and request that you provide the requested documents and written responses by no later than May 5, 2010. In your reply, please format information into a chart like the examples provided below. All formal correspondence should be sent electronically in PDF format to [Brian\\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov) or via facsimile to (202) 228-2131. Of course should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact Christopher Armstrong of my Committee staff at (202) 224-4515.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member

Attachment

**Drug X, 2008**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**Drug X, 2009**

Prescriber Identifier	Total prescriptions	Total billed to Medicaid
123456789	25,000	250,000
234567891	24,000	240,000
345678912	23,000	230,000
456789123	22,000	220,000
567891234	21,000	210,000
678912345	20,000	200,000
789123456	19,000	190,000
891234567	18,000	180,000
912345678	17,000	170,000
012345678	16,000	160,000

**From:** Vicky A. Donaho  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2010 2:10 PM  
**To:** 'Brian\_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov'  
**Cc:** Minnie W. McLemore; Phyllis Williams  
**Subject:** RFI from US Senate Committee on Finance - Pharmacy Data - Time Sensitive

Hello Mr. Downey,

Please find the attached information from the Mississippi Division of Medicaid in response to Senator Grassley's attached request. Let us know if you have any questions or if further clarification is needed.

Sincerely,  
Vicky Donaho, Staff Officer  
Executive Services  
Office of the Governor  
Mississippi Division of Medicaid  
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Jackson, MS 39201  
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**Please note email address change and update your address books with my new email address.** [vicky.donaho@medicaid.ms.gov](mailto:vicky.donaho@medicaid.ms.gov)

Confidentiality Note: This message and all attachments are confidential and/or proprietary to the Mississippi Division of Medicaid, and the use, disclosure or distribution to anyone other than the intended receiver without the prior written permission of the Division of Medicaid is prohibited. The information contained and attached herein is intended for the exclusive use of the individual or entity name. If you are not the intended receiver, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, or distribution, by any means, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender by replying to the e-mail or contact the telephone number above for instructions on how to delete or return the information without additional disclosure. Thank you for your assistance in the protection of confidential information.

Mississippi Division of Medicaid

Abilify<sup>i</sup> 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier<sup>ii</sup></b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1952593048	250	\$162,506.18
1366562431	286	\$153,547.99
1154477453	313	\$150,875.28
1053335497 <sup>iii</sup>	324	\$147,490.28
1982612164	273	\$135,733.19
1588662720	295	\$134,994.04
1245275353	286	\$131,679.07
1043227606	225	\$127,211.56
1043227713	230	\$126,688.28
1083725618	165	\$118,334.28

Abilify 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1154477453	733	\$373,505.54
1053335497	522	\$228,429.30
1801967674	407	\$157,455.03
1366562431	352	\$182,133.55
1952593048	350	\$272,461.46
1588662720	350	\$162,578.75
1255462230	291	\$98,607.61
1669586996	287	\$136,375.45
1154477651	253	\$126,466.96
1073626511 <sup>iv</sup>	250	\$116,451.33

Geodon 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1255462230	393	\$66,145.77
1043227606	298	\$111,141.66
1154477453	203	\$72,406.07
1073626511	195	\$61,962.32
1760563548	172	\$77,386.01
1013047703	171	\$80,428.91
1164434163	146	\$55,363.12
1629136825	145	\$50,425.14
1982612164	142	\$53,842.41
1700805546	138	\$54,519.35

Geodon 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1043227606	327	\$145,270.94
1255462230	187	\$40,197.93
1760563548	168	\$85,685.40
1013047703	148	\$103,750.67
1154477453	138	\$62,850.37
1598769176	137	\$30,803.24
1396792578	125	\$53,314.88
1629136825	118	\$44,629.24
1073626511	114	\$46,251.76
1487693024	102	\$69,306.02

Seroquel 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1043227713	493	\$132,406.59
1083632269	408	\$178,474.60
1831319359	367	\$113,373.37
1154477453	329	\$112,047.44
1760563548	327	\$151,553.23
1356482459	269	\$139,016.89
1558580662	263	\$117,280.77
1982612164	234	\$134,281.22
1053335497	228	\$82,879.76
1801967674	220	\$27,718.60

Seroquel 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1043227713	488	\$151,169.72
1083632269	460	\$194,516.39
1053335497	432	\$157,213.36
1760563548	383	\$191,947.22
1558580662	345	\$150,018.58
1043227606	279	\$140,434.28
1669586996	278	\$159,811.38
1700805546	266	\$130,977.42
1356482459	262	\$144,512.57
1154477453	260	\$117,935.95

Zyprexa 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1982612164	284	\$196,236.22
1053335497	267	\$137,063.87
1982791729	260	\$180,303.06
1255462230	248	\$63,301.24
1154477453	233	\$122,725.89
1477582096	202	\$117,987.00
1760563548	182	\$133,595.23
1831319359	163	\$91,572.91
1700805546	154	\$96,554.33
1528138666	152	\$96,189.41

Zyprexa 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1053335497	260	\$130,362.72
1982791729	236	\$184,692.41
1255462230	235	\$65,377.41
1043227606	184	\$143,486.60
1154477453	181	\$115,835.46
1760563548	180	\$143,153.04
1629136825	167	\$124,566.75
1083632269	160	\$119,292.35
1205835006	160	\$114,968.52
1558393843	154	\$79,732.53



Risperdal 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1043227713	987	\$228,074.16
1154477453	833	\$208,290.70
1598769176	658	\$149,799.22
1952593048	616	\$143,726.36
1518987478	589	\$131,222.67
1083725618	575	\$129,208.28
1831319359	550	\$131,389.25
1356482459	527	\$108,246.95
1558580662	525	\$158,444.56
1609989102	513	\$106,346.59

Risperdal 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1154477453	893	\$116,006.04
1043227713	885	\$114,665.17
1598769176	847	\$93,838.97
1952593048	750	\$98,304.95
1083725618	749	\$78,186.48
1053335497	734	\$123,120.17
1609989102	687	\$64,181.01
1558580662	573	\$78,802.16
1518987478	570	\$62,218.42
1881651131	491	\$33,941.41

Xanax 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1154349926	1028	\$8,552.84
1083632269	809	\$14,818.64
1346238359	675	\$6,230.99
1669586996	632	\$9,787.52
1659445492	593	\$44,609.44
1285747089	552	\$4,205.33
1053373662	542	\$3,503.77
1063577799	491	\$5,495.35
1275515553	443	\$1,776.61
1922147065	442	\$3,522.30

Xanax 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1154349926	995	\$7,162.74
1346238359	791	\$6,733.65
1083632269	661	\$9,635.67
1669586996	653	\$8,321.09
1285747089	589	\$4,014.42
1922147065	521	\$4,130.22
1063577799	509	\$5,658.73
1659445492	438	\$37,530.10
1144320920	428	\$3,252.16
1073522348	416	\$3,502.39

Oxycontin 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1154334845	28	\$10969.16
1770585630	24	\$10496.82
1164567996	17	\$4503.45
1073622999	16	\$5841.20
1720045552	15	\$2338.54
1144259235	14	\$4207.33
1558396010	14	\$3168.87
1861483075	14	\$4105.50
1063482404	13	\$5687.35
1689696759	13	\$5025.89

Oxycontin 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1073622999	24	\$10886.44
1154334845	24	\$12650.46
1770585630	24	\$12908.19
1720045552	21	\$3221.08
1336159458	18	\$11084.25
1558396010	18	\$7327.47
1871607598	17	\$10209.51
1700890498	14	\$15357.18
1972510287	14	\$5064.19
1144320920	13	\$3491.46

Roxicodone 2008

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1346238359	40	\$2003.97
1972510287	31	\$1008.68
1558390443	27	\$433.97
1922218627	27	\$1350.72
1740373448	25	\$1285.28
1154334845	22	\$1248.52
1740364090	21	\$1047.45
1821212176	20	\$1295.65
1003885344	17	\$955.76
1801904255	17	\$909.47

Roxicodone 2009

<b>Prescriber Identifier</b>	<b>Total Prescriptions</b>	<b>Total Billed to Medicaid</b>
1346238359	54	\$3262.82
1578594586	37	\$1242.77
1922218627	34	\$2062.35
1730119223	28	\$1231.32
1841312600	28	\$1381.75
1770691412	27	\$1688.89
1851370159	26	\$1234.05
1972510287	26	\$1265.16
1154334845	21	\$1378.38
1730379231	20	\$1323.85

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<sup>i</sup> Generic equivalent data/numbers, where applicable, are included with branded agents.

<sup>ii</sup> Prescriber identifiers are NPIs.

<sup>iii</sup> 1053335497- physicians' group.

<sup>iv</sup> 1073626511- Community Mental Health Center

## Comments from Mississippi, Division of Medicaid

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The Mississippi Division of Medicaid (DOM) has several processes in place to monitor appropriate utilization of the medications identified in this letter. Processes include, but are not limited to, prior authorization program, monthly quantity limits, and age and dose limits.

**Atypical antipsychotics:** Antipsychotic agents have been included on the Preferred Drug List (PDL) since 2007. In 2008, preferred agents were Abilify, Geodon and Risperdal; in 2009, Seroquel was added to preferred status. In September 2008, DOM implemented minimum age and dose edits for this class based on the FDA-approved ages and /or doses, if applicable in each product's labeling. For those situations where a prescriber deems it appropriate to use these medications in a child when the age is below the FDA-approved age for that medication, a prior authorization request must be submitted and acknowledge that the benefits of off-label use of the requested medication outweigh any risks that are posed to said child due to the use of the medication. Additionally, the Mississippi Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board (DUR) has been involved in the monitoring of this class of drugs. The DUR Board is scheduled to discuss potential implementation of duplicate therapy edits at the point of sale for atypical antipsychotics at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2010 meeting in May.

**Long and short acting narcotics:** Since 2002, Oxycontin has required prior authorization (PA). In April 2006, long and short acting narcotic analgesics, including oxycodone, were added to the PDL. Oxycontin has been and remains a non-preferred product, and use is monitored closely through the PA process. Based on a DUR Board initiative from February 2006, there are monthly quantity limits of 62 tablets per every 31 days for narcotic/controlled substances analgesics which includes Oxycodone and Roxicodone (oxycodone immediate release). Any prescriptions for more than the monthly quantity limit require prior authorization from the prescriber detailing the need for the additional amount(s) of narcotic analgesic. Long acting narcotic quantity limitations are based on the manufacturer's recommended dosing schedule (that is, 31 units for daily dosing and 62 units for twice daily dosing). All short acting narcotic analgesics are limited to 62 cumulative units per 31 days.

**Benzodiazepines:** In November 2008, the Mississippi Medicaid DUR Board voted to implement quantity limits of 62 tablets per 31 days for the benzodiazepines therapeutic class, of which Xanax<sup>®</sup> (alprazolam) is a member. Benzodiazepine limits are cumulative for short acting benzodiazepines i.e. Ativan/lorazepam, Valium/ diazepam, Xanax/alprazolam, Tranxene/clorazepate, and Serax/oxazepam. These limits were implemented in May 2009 to promote appropriate utilization of these agents for short-term treatment of anxiety disorders.

**Summary:** As evident from the aforementioned initiatives, the Mississippi Division of Medicaid's DUR Board actively monitors to ensure appropriate utilization of all medications through the Mississippi Medicaid pharmacy benefit. This board investigates utilization trends once they are identified through cost analysis reports, RDUR reports, and the prior authorization call center, as well as news/media reports of national trends. Mississippi Division of Medicaid is dedicated to promoting appropriate utilization of all medications, in the hopes of achieving the best clinical and financial outcomes for the residents of Mississippi.